

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00

FRB-03 CIEP-01 AGR-05 XMB-02 CEA-01 FEAE-00 INT-05

/093 W

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R 031748Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3389

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GW CH

SUBJECT: STRAUSS IN CHINA

SUMMARY: CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS VISITED PEKING SEPTEMBER 15-20, DURING A MAJOR GERMAN INDUSTRIAL FAIR. HE RECEIVED A HIGH, BUT NOT THE HIGHEST, RECEPTION. APPARENTLY NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN IN VISIT. THE CHINESE USED OCCASION TO WARN FRG AND EUROPE ABOUT USSR. STRAUSS RECEIVED ADDITIONAL EXPOSURE AS A MAN WHO CAN DEAL WITH CHINA, AND FAVORABLE COMMENT ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR FRG-CHINA TRADE WAS MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. CALLING HIMSELF A "PROMOTER OF SINO-GERMAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL" AND A SUPPORTER OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CHINA FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC REASONS, CSU LEADER FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS DE-

PARTED FOR PEKING ON SEPTEMBER 14.

2. THE DECLARED PURPOSE OF STRAUSS' VISIT WAS TO UNDERLINE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GERMAN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT "TECHNOGERMA '75," BY HIS ROLE AS A LEADING OPPOSITION POLITICIAN AND AS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE CDU/CSU IN THE BUNDESTAG. HOWEVER, THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL CONTACTS WITH THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP ESTABLISHED IN HIS FIRST VISIT TO CHINA LAST JANUARY, AND POSSIBLY TO EMBARRASS CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WHO IS PLANNING TO VISIT PEKING AT THE END OF OCTOBER, ALSO APPEALED TO STRAUSS.

3. STRAUSS RECEIVED A HIGH LEVEL RECEPTION IN PEKING. HE WAS QUARTERED IN AN OFFICIAL GUEST HOUSE -- AN HONOR NOT ACCORDED ECONOMIC MINISTER FRIDERICH, WHO PRECEDED HIM TO PEKING. STRAUSS MET WITH TENG HSIAO-PING, FIRST VICE PREMIER, FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS; FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA FOR FOUR AND ONE-HALF HOURS; AND THE ACTING FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER.

4. HOWEVER, HIS RECEPTION DID NOT MATCH THE ONE HE RECEIVED IN JANUARY, WHEN HE MET WITH MAO AND CHOU EN-LAI. THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TWO RECEPTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE UNAVAILABILITY OF THE CHINESE LEADERS, BUT THE GERMANS BELIEVE ANOTHER FACTOR WAS CHINESE DESIRE NOT TO JEOPARDIZE SCHMIDT'S PLANNED VISIT.

5. THE MAIN TOPIC OF STRAUSS' TALK WITH TENG APPARENTLY WAS CHINESE-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE GERMAN PRESS REPORTED THAT TENG TOLD STRAUSS THAT A RECONCILIATION WITH MOSCOW IS POSSIBLE ONLY IF MOSCOW ABANDONS ITS "SOCIAL IMPERIALIST STAND." TENG ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE GRANTING OF WESTERN CREDITS TO THE USSR.

6. THE GERMAN PRESS REPORTED THAT CHIAO URGED EUROPE TO QUICKEN ITS PACE TOWARD UNIFICATION. HE DENOUNCED THE SOVIET POLICY OF DETENTE AND DISMISSED CSCE AS AN ATTEMPT TO DELUDE EUROPE. CHIAO ALSO CALLED FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOSEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND CHINA.

7. STRAUSS TOLD REPORTERS UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN THE FRG SEPTEMBER 20 THAT HE HAD CONFINED HIMSELF TO LISTENING DURING HIS POLITICAL TALKS. HE DID REACT STRONGLY WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT AN ARTICLE IN IZVESTIYA WHICH SAID HE WENT TO PEKING TO FORGE AN AGITATION ALLIANCE, CLAIMING THAT HIS VISIT DID NOT POSE ANY DANGER TO

EITHER THE WORLD OR EUROPE.

8. STRAUSS CLAIMED THAT THE CHINESE ARE ABOUT TO INTENSIFY THEIR EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESERVES, INCLUDING OIL. FOR THIS THEY WILL NEED LARGE INVESTMENTS AND FINANCING OF THEM. STRAUSS SAID THAT THE CHINESE DID NOT CHANGE THEIR POLICY ON FOREIGN CREDITS, BUT ARE AGREEABLE TO INCREASED FINANCE COSTS IN RETURN FOR INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS. STRAUSS PROFESSED BELIEF IN

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INCREASED CHINESE-GERMAN TRADE, ESPECIALLY IN EQUIPMENT FOR THE OIL INDUSTRY AND HELICOPTERS. HE PRAISED THE ASSIGNMENT OF A CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO THE EC, CALLING IT A STEP TOWARD ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

OF WIDER POLITICAL CONTACTS.

9. THE FONOFF HAS TOLD US THAT THERE WAS LITTLE OR NO CONTACT BETWEEN THE FRG EMBASSY AND STRAUSS, NO EMBASSY PARTICIPATION IN HIS TALKS, AND NO EMBASSY DEBRIEFING OF STRAUSS. THUS, THE FONOFF IS SINGULARLY UNINFORMED ABOUT THE STRAUSS VISIT AND EXPECTS TO REMAIN SO UNTIL/ UNLESS HE BRIEFS SCHMIDT, AS HE HAS OFFERED TO DO. STRAUSS' STAFF HAS DECLINED SO FAR TO GIVE US ANY INSIGHT INTO THE VISIT.

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10. COMMENT: FROM GERMAN PERSPECTIVE CHINESE HANDLED THE VISIT WELL. THEY DISPLAYED THEIR FONDNESS FOR STRAUSS, BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT OF PROVOKING A CANCELLATION OF SCHMIDT'S VISIT. SCHMIDT'S VISIT, THE PLANNING FOR WHICH IS GOING FORWARD. STRAUSS ALSO DID NOT HURT HIMSELF. HIS VISIT RECEIVED WIDE PLAY IN THE PRESS AND HIS IMAGE AS A MAN WHO CAN DEAL WITH CHINA WAS ENHANCED. SINCE RELATIONS WITH CHINA ARE NOT NOW OF THE GREATEST IMMEDIACY TO THE GERMANS, SUCH AN IMAGE IS NOT VITAL FOR POLITICAL SUCCESS HERE, BUT THE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY AND APPARENTLY CONSTRUCTIVE TONE OF THE VISIT CERTAINLY DID NOT HURT STRAUSS.
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